

Rulemaking Hearing Rules of  
the  
Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation  
Division of Water Supply  
Chapter 1200-5-8  
Water Registration Requirements

Amendments

Rule 1200-5-8 Water Registration Requirements is amended by the deleting the existing language in its entirety and substituting the following language so that as amended Rule 1200-5-8 Water Registration Requirements shall read:

Chapter 1200-5-8  
Water Registration Requirements

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1200-5-8-.01 Authority.

- (1) These Rules and Regulations are issued under the authority of T.C.A. §§ 69-7-301 et seq., as amended.
- (2) The Department of Environment and Conservation, Division of Water Supply is responsible for the supervision of water withdrawal registration.

Rulemaking Authority: T.C.A. § 69-7-306 and T.C.A. § 4-5-202

Substantive Authority: T.C.A. § 69-7-301 et seq.

1200-5-8-.02 Purpose.

- (1) The purpose of these Rules and Regulations is to provide guidelines for the interpretation of §69-7-301 et seq. of the *Tennessee Code Annotated* and to set out the procedures to be followed by the Department in carrying out the Tennessee Water Resources Information Act. These Rules and Regulations set out the procedures and requirements for registering a water withdrawal.
- (2) Where the terms *shall* and *must* are used, practice and usage is sufficiently standardized to indicate a *mandatory requirement*, insofar as any complaint action by the Department is concerned. Other items, such as *should*, *recommend*, *preferred*, and the like, indicate *desirable procedures or methods*.

Rulemaking Authority: T.C.A. § 69-7-306 and T.C.A. § 4-5-202  
Substantive Authority: T.C.A. § 69-7-301 et seq.

1200-5-8-.03 Scope.

These rules shall apply to all persons withdrawing water from either a surface water or ground water source if the average withdrawal is 10,000 gallons or more a day for any purpose, except those excluded by the Act and listed below:

- (1) A person may withdraw water for agricultural purposes without having registered the withdrawal. If a person withdraws water for agricultural purposes and another purpose, the water used for agriculture shall not count towards the calculation of whether the withdrawal exceeds an average of ten thousand (10,000) gallons or more per day. For purposes of this part, "agricultural purposes" shall mean use in the production or harvesting of an agricultural product, including, but not limited to, irrigation of crops, vines, production of hay, turf production and nursery stock production as defined at T.C.A. §43-1-112, and watering of poultry or livestock.
- (2) Nonrecurring withdrawals of water, including, but not limited to, the filling of a swimming pool from a residential water well and accidental withdrawals caused by failure of pipes or equipment.
- (3) A person may withdraw water for emergencies involving human health and safety without having first registered the withdrawal, provided it is not done on a regular or recurring basis.
- (4) The purchase of water from a utility by a customer, including other water utilities, does not constitute a withdrawal.

Rulemaking Authority: T.C.A. § 69-7-306 and T.C.A. § 4-5-202  
Substantive Authority: T.C.A. § 69-7-301 et seq.

1200-5-8-.04 Definitions.

- (1) "Act" means the Tennessee Water Resources Information Act.
- (2) "Board" means the Water Quality Control Board of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation.
- (3) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of the department of environment and conservation, the commissioner's duly authorized representative and, in the event of the commissioner's absence or a vacancy in the office of commissioner, the deputy commissioner of environment and conservation.
- (4) "Consumptive water use" means that portion of water that becomes incorporated into the product, consumed by humans or livestock, that is lost to evaporation or transpiration, or is otherwise removed from the local hydrologic environment from which it was obtained.
- (5) "Department" means the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. The terms "state," "department" and "division" are often used interchangeably in these Rules and Regulations.
- (6) "Dewatering" means the withdrawal of water to facilitate construction or extraction of earth materials.

- (7) "Division" means the Division of Water Supply. The terms "state", "department" and "division" are often used interchangeably in these Rules and Regulations.
- (8) "Emergency Water Use" means the withdrawal of water, for a period not exceeding thirty days, for the purpose of fire fighting, hazardous substance waste spill response, or other emergency withdrawal of water as determined by the Department.
- (9) "Ground Water" means any water beneath the surface of the ground, including those under the direct influence of surface water, and includes any water from any well, cave, and spring.
- (10) "Person" means any individual, corporation, company, limited liability company partnership, association, group, utility district, federal, state or local government agency, or any combination of them.
- (11) "Public Utility" means any person engaged in the operation of a public water supply system whether serving domestic or commercial water uses or any combination.
- (12) "Recurring" means the withdrawal of water more than 4 days a year.
- (13) "Return Point" means the surface or ground water location where water withdrawn and used is returned or discharged.
- (14) "Source" means a location where surface or ground water is available, including, but not limited to, a water well, cave, spring, stream, river, lake, or impoundment.
- (15) "Surface Water" means any water located on the land surface that includes creeks, streams, rivers, lakes, and impoundments. It does not include ponds and impoundments that are not located on a stream and that are privately owned by the person withdrawing water where the water is returned to the same impoundment.
- (16) "Use" means the purpose for which any withdrawal is made.
- (17) "Withdraw" means to take water from any source on a regular or recurring basis by means of an intake structure, pipe and pump that diverts water away from a source, or by any other conveyance with or without the use of suction. This does not include nonrecurring withdrawals including, but not limited to, the filling of a swimming pool from a residential water well or the accidental withdrawal caused by failure of pipes or equipment.

Rulemaking Authority: T.C.A. § 69-7-306 and T.C.A. § 4-5-202

Substantive Authority: T.C.A. § 69-7-301 et seq.

#### 1200-5-8-.05 Registration Requirement.

- (1) Initial Registration - No person shall withdraw an average of ten thousand (10,000) or more gallons of water per day from a surface water or a ground water source unless the withdrawal is currently registered with the commissioner. Such registration shall be on forms furnished, upon request, by the commissioner. Any person required to submit a registration of withdrawal shall provide at a minimum to the commissioner the following information:
  - (a) An identification of all the withdrawal and return points. The withdrawal and return points shall be identified by name of source and facility and county in which the withdrawal and return points are located;
  - (b) The anticipated or proposed volume, frequency and times of year water is to be withdrawn;

- (c) The volume of the average and maximum withdrawal shall be reported in million gallons per day;
  - (d) The use or uses for which the water withdrawn is applied as specified in 1200-5-8-.08, Classification of Water Uses.
  - (e) The estimated volume of water returned at each return point. Return points include, but are not limited to, municipal or industrial wastewater discharges, stream discharges, subsurface disposal, etc.
  - (f) The person completing and submitting the registration shall sign the form attesting to the accuracy of the information submitted.
- (2) Annual Renewal - Any person who causes such a withdrawal shall annually renew their registration of such water withdrawal with the commissioner on forms provided for the purpose on or before February 15 of every year. Information reported shall include the user's name, address, sources and locations of withdrawal, volume of water withdrawn each calendar month for the previous twelve months, maximum day withdrawal and the month in which it occurred, method of withdrawal measurement, and any change in volume or points of withdrawal. Forms developed by the person withdrawing water may be used if prior approval is obtained from the department.
- (3) Public water systems may comply with the annual water withdrawal registration requirements by providing water pumpage information to the department on a monthly basis.

Rulemaking Authority: T.C.A. § 69-7-306 and T.C.A. § 4-5-202  
 Substantive Authority: T.C.A. § 69-7-301 et seq.

1200-5-8-.06 Ownership/Operational Rights.

Persons withdrawing water from a source shall comply with all other laws, rules and regulations, and policies of the State. These specifically include, but are not limited to, the Interbasin Transfer Act, the Water Quality Control Act, and the Safe Drinking Water Act.

Rulemaking Authority: T.C.A. § 69-7-306 and T.C.A. § 4-5-202  
 Substantive Authority: T.C.A. § 69-7-301 et seq.

1200-5-8-.07 Measurement Methods and Standards.

The commissioner shall accept a recognized method of measuring the quantities of water withdrawn. Recognized methods of measuring the quantity of surface water withdrawn which are acceptable include any of the following:

- (1) Flow meters accurate to within ten percent of calibration in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations;
- (2) The rated capacity of the pump in conjunction with the use of an hour meter, electric meter or log;
- (3) Any standard or method employed by the United States Geological Survey in determining water withdrawals;
- (4) Any other method found to provide reliable water withdrawal data approved by the Department. Any person desiring to use an alternate method of measuring the volume of water withdrawal shall make a written request to the department. The request must describe the procedure to be used and furnish information on the accuracy of the method.

Rulemaking Authority: T.C.A. § 69-7-306 and T.C.A. § 4-5-202  
Substantive Authority: T.C.A. § 69-7-301 et seq.

1200-5-8-.08 Classification of Water Uses.

The following water use classifications shall be used when registering water withdrawals. Persons not covered by this Act that voluntarily register their water withdrawals should use the following water use classification.

- (1) domestic water supply, including municipal water supplies
- (2) irrigation of crops and nursery stock
- (3) livestock watering
- (4) production (including harvesting) of an agricultural product
- (5) navigation (lock usage and flow augmentation)
- (6) thermoelectric power production, including cooling purposes (excludes hydroelectric)
- (7) recreational use
- (8) commercial, institutional or other general public use
- (9) industrial uses include manufacturing processing, washing, and cooling, but excludes mining related uses (defined below)
- (10) hydroelectric power generation (provided none of it is used consumptively)
- (11) mining (where water is used to wash or process an ore)
- (12) dewatering (mining, quarry rock production, and other operations where water is withdrawn in order to conduct another activity.)
- (13) any other use not defined above

Rulemaking Authority: T.C.A. § 69-7-306 and T.C.A. § 4-5-202  
Substantive Authority: T.C.A. § 69-7-301 et seq.

1200-5-8-.09 Points of Withdrawal and Return Location/Source Identification.

- (1) The point(s) of withdrawal and return shall be located at a minimum using any one of the following methods:
  - (a) Located on a 7.5 minute USGS topographic map.
  - (b) Coordinates obtained with a GPS unit (in decimal format).
  - (c) The name of the stream or river and river mile from the mouth of the river as shown on a 7.5 minute USGS topographic map.
  - (d) The name of the municipal or industrial wastewater plant.

- (e) The name of the source and county where the intake, well or spring is located and the name of the source or discharge point and county where water is returned. Water returned through multiple private subsurface disposal systems only have to identify the county where the discharge takes place.
- (2) State Driller Tag Number or other State Identification Number, if one has been assigned or public water system (PWS) entry point ID.
- (3) Multiple points of withdrawal may be further identified and designated as W1, W2, W3 and so forth for reporting purposes. Multiple points of return may be further identified as R1, R2, R3, and so forth.

Rulemaking Authority: T.C.A. § 69-7-306 and T.C.A. § 4-5-202  
Substantive Authority: T.C.A. § 69-7-301 et seq.

#### 1200-5-8-.10 Record Maintenance.

Persons subject to the water withdrawal provisions of these rules shall retain on their premises or at a convenient location near their premises the following records:

- (1) Copies of Registrations of Withdrawals for the past three (3) years.
- (2) All records and documents, including worksheets, pumpage records, etc., used to calculate the amount of water withdrawn.

Rulemaking Authority: T.C.A. § 69-7-306 and T.C.A. § 4-5-202  
Substantive Authority: T.C.A. § 69-7-301 et seq.

#### 1200-5-8-.11 Change of Person Responsible for Withdrawal.

Any change of person responsible for water withdrawn shall be reported to the Department within 60 days.

Rulemaking Authority: T.C.A. § 69-7-306 and T.C.A. § 4-5-202  
Substantive Authority: T.C.A. § 69-7-301 et seq.

#### 1200-5-8-.12 Compliance and Civil Penalties.

- (1) Any person who
  - (a) fails to file a water withdrawal registration, or
  - (b) fails to timely file a water withdrawal registration, or
  - (c) fails to submit a true and accurate information on any registration form or report required by the Act and these rules

has incurred a violation and is subject to an Order, including a penalty of up to \$7,500.00 per day per violation as provided in the Act. Each day such violation continues is a separate violation.

- (2) Any person who attempts to prevent or not to allow the commissioner's agents to enter at a reasonable time upon any property other than dwelling places for the purpose of conducting investigations or studies or enforcing any of the provisions of this part has incurred a violation and is subject to an Order, including a penalty of up to \$7,500.00 per day of violation as provided in the Act. Each day such violation continues is a separate violation.

Rulemaking Authority: T.C.A. § 69-7-306 and T.C.A. § 4-5-202  
Substantive Authority: T.C.A. § 69-7-301 et seq.

1200-5-8-.13 Confidentiality of Data.

If specifically requested by the person registering the withdrawal and if it is deemed necessary by the commissioner to protect trade secret information as defined in T.C.A. §47-25-1702, the commissioner shall keep such trade secret information confidential. To effectuate this provision, the registrant must submit specifically precluded data on separate forms using forms which are coded in such a manner as to conceal the identity of the facility or registrant.

If an applicant makes a request for confidential treatment, the Division shall treat the information as confidential pending a determination of whether it qualifies and any review of that determination as provided herein. If the Division determines that any information is not entitled to confidential treatment for any reason, it shall inform the person in writing. A request for an informal review by the Commissioner or a designee may be filed within 30 days of receipt of the letter denying confidential treatment. The informal review shall not be conducted as a contested case under T.C.A. §4-5-101 et seq. The Commissioner shall issue a written determination after the informal review. If no timely request for review is filed or upon the expiration of thirty days after the Commissioner's written determination that the information is not entitled to confidential treatment, the Division may cease to treat the information as confidential.

Rulemaking Authority: T.C.A. § 69-7-306 and T.C.A. § 4-5-202  
Substantive Authority: T.C.A. § 69-7-301 et seq.

The Rulemaking Hearing Rules set out herein were properly filed in the Department of State on December 11, 2006 and will become effective on February 24, 2007.